



COR-0183
Copy 5 of 7

20 October 1958

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Trip Report, 12-13 October 1958
(AWS Headquarters, Scott AFB, Illinois)

1. On 12 October 1958 the undersigned visited the Air Weather Service Headquarters, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, to discuss various matters of interest to Projects CHALICE, [redacted] and CORONA.

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2. On this occasion the writer briefed Major James R. Smith on Project CORONA. This briefing had been requested by Colonel Norman L. Peterson, Commander AWS, and approved by the DPG Security Staff. Appropriate forms were executed by Maj. Smith and he was permitted to review the CORONA briefing folder. This was followed by a verbal briefing on the present status of Project CORONA, including the preparation of a suitable cover story. Maj. Smith will be involved in the weather prediction activity for the launch and recovery areas and will be directly responsible for making necessary forecast arrangements, including the coordination of such efforts within the Air Weather Service Headquarters. His task will be to service Project CORONA in a manner that will appear completely overt within his own headquarters.

3. The balance of the time was spent in discussions with Maj. Smith and Dr. Robert D. Fletcher whose appearance followed the briefing of Maj. Smith. The latest pictures of Typhoons Winnie and Ida were shown to those present and all displayed extreme interest in the photographic details of storm areas. Dr. Fletcher was extremely interested in having mosaic reprints made available to Life magazine, who apparently are continuing their efforts toward a tropical cyclone series beginning in November. It was agreed that every effort would be made to prepare such mosaics as soon as possible and to forward the completed negatives to Air Weather Service Headquarters, who will in turn forward same to the Life magazine science editor.

4. The discussions of the typhoons which were conducted in the Far East led to a discussion of a similar type activity that could be conducted from Detachment B at Adana, Turkey. It was pointed out to those present that we have concentrated our efforts on producing

excellent cover activities for the Far Eastern area but have neglected to supply the Middle East detachment with activities of major importance. Dr. Fletcher recognized this failure and stated that there are several types of phenomena which occur in the Middle Eastern area in which he has keen interest. He noted that there is an inner tropical front which moves on either side of the equator causing severe dust storms as far north as the Mediterranean. There have been claims that this phenomena occurs only north of the equator and other scientists have been in dispute with Dr. Fletcher on this very matter. He noted to me that he has personally experienced these dust storms south of the equator and is therefore most anxious to have photographic evidence of this activity from which he could write a scientific report. Apparently there is a certain telltale weather condition which announces the beginning of mass air movements which cause these dust storms and the Air Weather Service could alert the detachment, enabling them to keep watch on the storm's progress.

5. One other project, somewhat removed from the present Detachment B location, would require a staging operation [redacted] (This may possibly coincide with proposed staging operations [redacted]) considerable information could be obtained in the areas affected by the monsoon. Of particular interest are the various cloud formations that are affected by the mountainous regions and the plain areas. Dr. Fletcher indicated that the Air Weather Service Headquarters had probably neglected to inform us of comparable phenomena in the Middle East due to their desire not to interfere with our operational activities. He has been extremely delighted with the typhoon studies conducted by Detachment C, and his pleasure is blinding him from considering any similar type activity from the Middle East detachment. The writer noted to those present that it is our desire to raise the level of cover activities at Detachment B to a point equal to the work being conducted to that of Detachment C. This is of particular concern since we are now planning to incorporate [redacted] from that location for which we will have soon two additional unusual activities to account for.

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7. I asked Dr. Fletcher to investigate all types of research activity that could be conducted [redacted] and to advise us of his findings prior to the week of 27 October 1958. This he said he would do, and he would in all probability be able to report to me on his forthcoming visit to Washington the week of 20 October. On this occasion I asked him to meet with the various members of the Admin staff who would be visiting [redacted] later this month so that all would have an opportunity to bring him up to date on the various problems we face, and to obtain from him the benefit of his thinking.

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8. It is the opinion of the writer that much will be gained by including a member of the Air Weather Service in any [redacted] discussions subsequently held. They have continuously in the past given us 100 per cent cooperation and again on this trip offered their complete and total help, both of personnel and facilities. I believe we can look forward to some extremely good cover activities to raise the standard of cover operations at Detachment B, and any such new programs developed will be dispatched to the detachment so that we can immediately bring their research into public view.

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15/
[redacted]
Cover Officer
DPS/DCI

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